

THE SPEAKING GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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THE SEVEN SPEAKING GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The seven speaking gifts – because they all involve speaking aloud – are:

- Exhortation
- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Tongues – Speaking in and Interpretation of
- Word of Knowledge
- Word of Wisdom
- Worship

[Please note that Prophecy and Teaching, are similar to two of the Special Gifts. The speaking gifts of Prophecy and Teaching are not the same as the special leadership gifts of being a Prophet or Teacher. This resource will also define the Speaking Gifts, and distinguish between the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge.]

Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians in his third year in Ephesus, c. AD55. Corinth was the chief city of Greece both commercially and politically, and he lived there while the temple of Apollo, fountain-house of the spring Peirene, the theatre – all played a part in the social aspects of the time. In 1 Corinthians chapter 14 he pens:

v1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.

v6-12 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the pipe or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. If then I do not

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grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speak, and the speaker is a foreigner to me. So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

Ephesians 5 v18-20: Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the book of Hebrews, the book of “Better Things” including God’s grace, the author instructs in chapter 10 v24-25:

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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EXHORTATION

Romans 12 v6,8: Having then gifts that differ according to the grace that is given to each of us... if it is to encourage, then give encouragement.

This special speaking gift is the ability to draw close to individuals in time of need, counselling them correctly with the Word of God. To 'exhort' is to strongly urge, encourage in wise spiritual counsel through taking a person in confidence to comfort, recommend, advise.

Exhortation was also a plan for the early church:

They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. Acts 14 v21-22.

The Bible tells us how this Speaking gift Exhortation be administered:

- *As a father would his own children; For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians v11-12.*
- *More frequently as the end of time approaches; Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3 v13.*
- *Exhort one another; Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10 v24-25*

Q. Are you an Exhorter?

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PROPHECY

For to one is given by the Spirit... Prophecy. 1 Corinthians 12 v10

The speaking gift of prophecy does not mean you have the special gift of being a prophet. God has set prophets (who also have the gift of prophecy) in a specific leadership position in the church, notably the Office of the Prophet. All people who prophesy, whether they have the gift of prophecy or hold the Prophet office, all deliver special messages under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

The one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified... 1 Corinthians 14 v2-5.

V24-25: If an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said... For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14 v29,31-33.

Q. Can you prophesy?

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TEACHING

Romans 12 v6-7: Having then gifts that differ according to the grace that is given to each of us... if it is prophesying then prophesy, if it is teaching, then teach.

The speaking gift of teaching does not necessarily mean a person has the special gift of being a teacher, as again God has placed people in the church to fill the leadership positions of teacher. These keys from the Bible tell us how to teach:

- Giving instruction with Patience; Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction... But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy v2,5.
- On sound Biblical doctrine; Hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1 v9.
- With all authority; These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you. Titus 2 v15.
- Training in righteousness; All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3 v16-17.

Matthew 28 v 19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Yeshua).

Q. Can you teach the Word that is the Good News of Jesus Christ?

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TONGUES (also a Sign Gift)

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

In 1 Corinthians chapter 14 Paul writes about the gift of tongues:

I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. (v18-19).

Anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. (v2).

Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers. (V22). So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? (v23).

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14 v13: The one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. V27-28: ... Someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

PURPOSES FOR TONGUES

Tongues are a sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit and they are a gift of the Holy Spirit. They edify:

- Prayer to God (1 Corinthians 14 v2)
- Self edification (1 Corinthians 14 v4, Isaiah 28 v11-12)
- Intercession/to intercede: pray on behalf of another (Romans 8 v26-27)
- Praise (1 Corinthians 14 v15, Acts 10 v46)
- Fulfilment of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14 v21)
- Edification of the church (1 Corinthians 14 v12-19)
- Sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14 v22)

Q. Have you the gift of tongues and/or interpretation?

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Words of Knowledge and Wisdom

do not come through education or training, but they are rather mysterion (Greek: secrets) as Paul discloses in Colossians 2 v2-3: So that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12 v8.

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Solomon writes in Proverbs 12 v1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge.

This is an ability to understand, to ‘know’ things which others do not, and can not comprehend, but to share this knowledge under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is not the “gift of knowledge” as we receive a portion of God’s knowledge, and not all His knowledge in entirety. Therefore, the gift of knowledge is spiritual and revelatory knowledge, downloaded and revealed by God, and not obtained through education nor study.

1 Corinthians 2 v 10-16: The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,

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for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

For further study

- Acts 5 v1-11 Ananias and Sapphira – How did Peter know?
- Acts 9 v10-19 The disciple Ananias who helped Saul.
- John 4 v1-26 Jesus and the Samaritan woman.
- John 11 v6-16 Jesus and the disciples concerning Lazarus.
- Luke 2 v25-35 Simeon in the temple courts in Jerusalem.
- Acts 27 v13-44 Paul’s storm and shipwreck en route to Rome.

WORD OF WISDOM

This is an ability to receive and communicate insight; the facts in a situation a person with this gift knows instinctively, with the help of the Holy Spirit, how to solve or resolve an issue or situation to bring about a wise conclusion. The level of insight required into persons and situations is not evident to the average person. The gift of Word of Wisdom is a portion of God’s infinite wisdom that is given and released, and not the “gift of wisdom” which is not one total wisdom of God available to us.

Godly wisdom is not the same as wisdom of the world. James 3 v13-17 tells us Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

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Spiritual Wisdom can be attained by studying the Word of God. 2 Timothy 3 v14: *Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

You can ask God for wisdom: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.) James 1 v5-6.

David's son and heir, King Solomon, wrote from the tenth century BC, Proverbs 2 v6-7: *For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*

Further study

- Paul's reference to wisdom in 1 Corinthians 2. There are two types of wisdom.
- Stephen's ministry evidenced wisdom Acts 6-7.
- James 3 lists Godly wisdom.
- The Superiority of the Way of Wisdom Proverbs 1-9
- Thirty Sayings of the wise Proverbs 22-24
- Further saying of the Wise Proverbs 24-34

More you can note:

Q: Do you have the gift of Word of Wisdom, or Word of Knowledge?

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WORSHIP

Worship is extremely powerful. It is an outward creative expression of music sung, played, prayed, danced, signed or recited to praise and glorify God. It is the very gateway to spiritual breakthrough, the gateway to the throne room of God, and He himself rejoices over us with singing:

Zephaniah 3 v17 *The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*

In Acts 16 v25-26 worship broke the yoke of chains, it broke through the natural into the supernatural: About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

1 Corinthians 14 speaks of intelligibility in worship (v1-25) and good order in worship (v26-40).

In Paul's letter to the Colossians he writes in chapter 3 v16-17 rules for holy living; Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

About the seven sealed scroll and the slain Lamb; the four living creatures and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood your purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have

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made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Revelations 5 v7-10.

Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. James 5 v 13.

Isaiah 12 v1-6 Songs of Praise

Psalm 89 v1,5 A maskil of Remembrance

Exodus 15 v 1,2 Moses and the Israelites' song to the Lord.

Psalm 40 v3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Revelations 14 v2-3 Rushing waters and harpists and a new song

Ezekiel 43 v2 And I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land ws radiant with his glory.

John 4 v23-24 “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” – Yeshua.

Q. Do you have a song, the gift of music, of worship in the Spirit? (This gift can also be ministered through the prophetic, teaching, intercession).

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GOOD ORDER IN SPEAKING GIFTS

Paul sums up beautifully all the Speaking Gifts and how we should administer them in the ecclesia, in Corinthians chapter 14 v26-28:

What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

If anyone speaks in a tongue, two – or at the most three – should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. (v39).

James, Jesus' eldest brother, leader of the Jerusalem council and prominent in the Jerusalem church after Jesus' resurrection, wrote to the broad Christian audience and the twelve tribes (Jewish Christians) scattered throughout the Roman Empire and the nations, before AD50; reflecting an order with teachers and elders. He wrote as pastor to instruct and encourage his dispersed people around a central theme "faith that works". His letter is possibly the earliest of all New Testament writings, and in James chapter 3 v1-12 he says:

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a

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fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No”. Otherwise you will be condemned. (Chapter 5 v12).

-This is identical to what Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 5 v 37.

Some things I need to note about the good order of the Speaking Gifts and how one (or two) applies to me:

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SELF TEST

1. What are the Seven Speaking gifts? (don't look below!)

2. Marry up the definitions with the gifts:

Worship	Speaks by special inspiration of God an immediate message to His people to exhort, comfort, direct.
Exhortation	Establishes God's authority through another language.
Word of Knowledge	Ability to train others in God's Word.
Word of Wisdom	Insight as to how knowledge may be applied to specific needs.
Teaching	Ability to understand things others cannot and share the inspiration of the Spirit.
Tongues	To express through Creativity a breakthrough level of praise.
Prophecy	Words of counsel, comfort.

3. Believers give a word of wisdom or knowledge by:

1. Repeating what they have read.
2. Trying to think of something God might want them to say.
3. The Holy Spirit giving them a word to speak.

4. True or False – The gifts of prophecy and exhortation are virtually the same?

Why?

5. What does 1 Corinthians 2 v15 say about the natural vs Spiritual?